THE TRUE DEMOCRAT.

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Farm and Garden

AN INEXPENSIVE ICEHOUSE.

No Reason Why the Farmer Should Be Without It.

An icehouse and cool room may be constructed as follows: Excavate a half cellar in a perfectly dry place, from which the surface slopes (or may be made to slope) in all directions, so as to prevent danger of moisture from want of drainage. A stone or brick wall is built around this and laid in hydraulic cement. The floor is cemented. A frame or other building is built upon this basement to contain the ice. Twelve feet square will be large enough for a moderate sized family, as an icehouse of that size will hold about twenty loads or tons of ice.

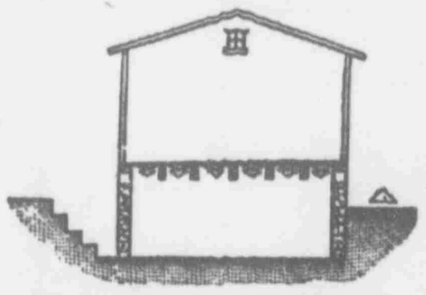

FIG. I.—ICEHOUSE AND COOL ROOM.

The main point is the division between the icehouse and the room below it. This must be perfectly air tight and a moderately good conductor of heat. The floor may be laid in the following manner:

Beams of sufficient strength are laid across and the ends well bedded in cement. A floor of zinc sheets is then laid upon the beams, the sheets being closely nailed to the beams upon strips of rubber sheeting to make the joints water and air tight. The beams should be dressed smoothly. The zinc sheets are bent, as shown in the illustration (Fig. 2). This is for the purpose of causing the moisture, which will condense upon the underside of this ceiling, to flow downward to the lower angle, where it will drip. The drip is caught in the little gutters of zinc shown in the figure attached to the ceiling and is carried off by a proper drain. With this water will also be carried off much of the impurity of the atmosphere, and if very little ventilation is given there will be little condensation and the air will be kept dry. This point must be well attended to, as the danger of excessive ventilation is very great. The beams and zinc ceiling should be painted with white paint—lead and oil.

Above the zinc ceiling a thin layer of dry, fresh sawdust should be laid smoothly, and a floor of matched pine boards should be laid upon that and thoroughly coated with melted pitch. This floor should slope a little to one corner so as to draw the waste water from the ice there, and an S trap drain should be laid from that to carry off the water into the drain above mentioned. The usual layer of sawdust is laid upon this floor to prevent too rapid conveyance of heat from below to the ice above. Small double windows

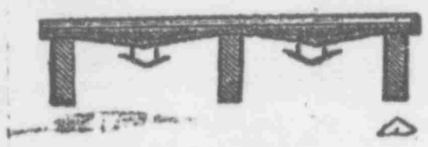

FIG. II.—ZINC SHEETS.

should be used in the cool chamber below to prevent access of heat from the outside, and they should be fitted air tight. Ventilation should be provided for by means of a wooden pipe with a slide, by which the opening can be regulated. By carefully regulating the ventilation the air may be kept dry.

Market Hogs.

What kind of hog will bring the most money in the market, and what breed will make the best market hog? These are questions hard to answer definitely. Markets vary as to the class of hogs that will sell at the top. When lard is at a premium the hog that yields a large amount of lard is the market topper, and that means the heavy, thick, fat hog. When lard is below other products this kind of hog sells for less than the light weight which will make handy pork loins and good hams without too much fat on them. Taking one year with another in eastern markets, the hog of 180 to 200 pounds will hit the top oftener than any other weight. In western markets hogs of around 250 pounds will probably average best. Sometimes lighter or heavier hogs will outsell these grades, according to the fluctuations in price of the product. In summer hog prices cover the widest range because there is the greatest difference in the yield of product at this season. In the winter all hogs are corn fed and yield more uniform quantities of product. In summer many are grassers that make low yields and of inferior quality to corn fed hogs. A 200 pound hog that dresses 80 per cent yields 160 pounds, one that dresses 75 per cent yields 150 pounds, and one that dresses 70 per cent yields only 140 pounds, an enormous difference in a carload of hogs, which the buyer makes allowance for in buying them on foot. As a rule, of late the best hogs have been the cheapest on the hooks at the top of the market because they have yielded so much more product than the others, which looked cheaper to the inexperienced observer. As to the breed that killers like best, probably more would answer Berkshire than any other breed. But hogs are what killers want, and the kind they want will top the market, whether black, white, red or spotted.

The Manure Spreader.

There are not many farm implements that will pay for themselves more quickly than a manure spreader. It saves labor, but that is not the big part of the profit. Some men must hesitate about a purchase if it means only a saving of labor. The use of the spreader means a great increase in the efficiency of the farm supply of manure. Some men cannot see this point. They say that they get the manure on the land and that is all that is necessary. But it isn't. Manure gives life to a soil even when the application is light, and it is poor policy to give one spot more than is needed while another spot is left bare or to make a heavy application to one acre and leave another acre without manure. We now know that it pays to make the manure go over a relatively large acreage. Director Thorne of the Ohio station has said that eight loads of manure per acre applied with a spreader have about as great efficiency as twelve loads put on roughly with a fork. Every foot gets a little of the material, and the effect is seen in the sod that follows or the sod to which the manure is applied. Land should not have a heavy dressing of manure when other land in the farm needs manure. Make the application light and even, and only a spreader can do the work well. In the interest of better sods, which are the life of a soil, add to the efficiency of the manure by using a spreader. Some farming communities have learned this lesson thoroughly well, while others have barely awakened to it.

Potatomatoes.

In grafting the tomato on the potato or the potato on tomato, or in making any other graft of similar herbaceous plants, the simpler methods are preferred. The saddle graft and splice graft are the ones most commonly used. The splice graft is made by simply cutting the scions a smooth slanting cut. The stock is cut in the same way, and the two members are tied together with their faces joined. In order to get the best results it is desirable to have the grafts made of rather tender shoots, such as have only partially hardened. In order to get a proper union with this sort of tissue it is necessary that the cut be made with a very sharp knife, preferably with a razor. The two parts are then rather tenderly joined together, using very soft cloth bandages or

Splice. Saddle.

moistened raffia. It is desirable, furthermore, to cover the grafted plant with a bell jar or hand glass of some sort for a few days in order to prevent too rapid evaporation. If it is left exposed to the open air, especially if the atmosphere is rather dry, the scion dries out and wilts so badly that it cannot recover. The saddle graft is made by cutting the stock wedge shaped, while the scion is cut with a V shaped slit so that it will fit down over the wedge of the stock. The rest of the process is carried out exactly as already described for the splice graft.

It is the common wonder of all men how among so many million of faces there should be none alike.—Browne.

Interesting to Tobacco Growers.

A wide interest has been aroused on the part of quite a number of leading tobacco growers of the tobacco section of Florida and Georgia in a special fertilizer formula introduced by a large fertilizer company, and used on the 1908 crop. It behooves the growers of the entire tobacco section of Florida and Georgia to read up, and talk with those who were fortunate enough to purchase and use these goods, known as "Phospho Alkali with Potasium Nitrates." A number of our largest and most experienced growers who made experiments with this formula on their 1908 crops of shade tobacco, are highly pleased with the results in every particular (having testified to that effect), stating that tobacco produced therewith was of a superior burn, more uniform in color and texture; and several, the Florida Tobacco Company, of Quincy, and A. Wahnish, of Tallahassee, for instance, stating in addition to these superior qualities found, they even carried their tests so far as to accurately weigh results, finding an increase from 200 to 400 pounds per acre more yield than where other high grade and more expensive fertilizers were used.

Captain Henry Crutcher, the special Florida agent of this fertilizer company, who, by the way, is one of the most expert and painstaking fertilizer men in the entire South, has been for the past three years making the most minute investigation of the tobacco industry in Gadsden and Leon counties, Florida. In 1907 he canvassed the tobacco growing sections of these counties, visiting practically all of the leading, and many of the smaller growers in person, not endeavoring to make sales, but with the sole view of obtaining data. He ascertained more correctly than was ever before known, the total number of acres planted in both shade and sun grown tobacco, as well as the mode of procedure in making the crops from the planting of the seed beds, to the harvesting, curing, and packing. He ascertained that there was quite a diversity of opinion regarding the kinds and quantities of fertilizers used, and the modes of application. In fact many expressed the opinion that there was a great excess of certain ingredients used, and a consequent waste of money. This was not so much objected to, however, in face of the fact that the tobacco made on the succeedidg crop (not yet planted), had been contracted for at the most satisfactory prices to the growers.

Captain Crutcher, however, in addition to his painstaking tendency, is not a believer in squandering time, material nor money, and knew full well—basing his knowledge on general results from all industries—that the time would surely come when the tobacco growers would call a halt on unnecessary expenditures. In keeping with his deductions, that time is now with us. Notwithstanding the fact that an abundant and most excellent crop has just been harvested, owing to other conditions in the way of supply and demand, together with pannicky times existing in the money markets, the growers are compelled to sell a most excellent crop at prices equal to 25 cents per pound less than they obtained before for an inferior grade. He therefore determined to induce the company he represented to allow him to introduce a formula which is their own patented property, composed of materials not used in ordinary fertilizers, and which has been used extensively in Cuba, Porto Rica, and other foreign tobacco growing countries, for years. With what success he has met with, the growers who saw it themselves testify, and from orders already secured, it appears that there will be an almost immediate revolution in the kind of fertilizers used. Where comparatively a few tons of "Phospho Alkali" were used on the crop in 1908, thousands of tons will be used on that of 1909.

Saving Waste Land.

The people of Denmark are fast reclaiming their waste land by the labor of convicts. In Jutland there is a large undeveloped territory of almost barren waste covered with a tough, heathy undergrowth. The government sets the prisoners at work breaking up the tough surface and putting it into shape for farming. Even then the land is at first of very low grade, and it is given away to settlers who care to take possession.

Through their efforts many farms have begun to dot the Jutland landscape, and trees are seen where formerly were unbroken stretches of barren land. Many acres of good grain bearing land have been built up by the patient toil of the Danish settlers.

The experiment may be a valuable hint for other countries during the present period of hard times, which seems to be almost worldwide in its extent. The great number of unemployed as well as the convicts might be set to work and kept out of mischief in reclaiming the waste lands.

Statement.

Made as required by Section 32, Chapter 5596, Acts 1907.

Showing the amount of taxes charged to the "Tax Collector" of Leon County, Florida, to be collected for the current year 1907, and the apportionment of the same to the several funds for which taxes have been levied:

Total tax for the year 1907		$49,804.08
Amount paid to Nov 7, 1908	$49,271.48	
By errors, insolves, etc	532.60	49,804.08

APPORTIONMENT.

General Revenue		$ 9,630.00
Amount paid to Nov. 7, 1908	9,547.34	
By errors, insolves, etc	82.66	9,630.00
Schools		22,470.00
Amount paid to Nov. 7, 1908	22,277.12	
By errors, insolves, etc	192.88	22,470.00
Polls		1,330.00
Amount paid to Nov. 7, 1908	1,226.00	
By errors, insolves, etc	104.00	1,330.00
Fine and Forfeiture		3,210.00
Amount paid to Nov. 7, 1908	3,182.44	
By errors, insolves, etc	27.56	3,210.00
Roads and Bridges		8,035.28
Amount paid to Nov. 7, 1908	7,966.39	
By errors, insolves, etc	68.89	8,035.28
Special School, District No. 1.		5,128.80
Amount paid to Nov. 7, 1908	5,072.19	
By errors, insolves, etc	56.61	5,128.80

Attest— HENRY T. FELKEL,
Clerk of Circuit Court, Leon County, Florida.
Nov. 7th, 1908.

Fall garden seed, all kinds, at Holme's Drug Co.'s store.

For every dollar in cash spent with us we give one hundred coupons to be voted in the True Democrat Piano Contest. P. T. NICHOLSON, The Jeweler.

See DEMOCRAT for Job Printing.